AID(US) 8 LIBYA 724
INCO-WHEAT LIBYA
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# TELEGRAM

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ACTION AID-28

INFO OCT-01 AF-12 E-15 COM-08 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-08

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-04 IGA-02 RSR-01 /100 W

P R 161508Z SEP 70
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6895
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 2234

SUBJECT : LARG PLANS FOR WHEAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AT KUFRA

REFERENCE: TRIPOLI A-181

T25086
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J. M. Razi DATE May 6, 1982
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐

AID(US), State
Inco-Wheat Prog

1. FOLLOWING LITZENBERG VISIT FROM AID/W, LARG HAS GIVEN GO-AHEAD TO KUFRA AGRUCILTURAL PROJECT TO UNDERTAKE MASSIVE WHEAT PRODUCTION PROGRAM. LETTER TO EMBASSY FROM KUFRA SAYS PROGRAM ENTAILS EXPANSION BY 8,000 TO 10,000 HECTARES WINTER FARMING CAPACITY FOR 1971-72 CROP SEASON. THIS FULLY MECHANIZED IRRIGATION SCHEME USING PIVOT TYPE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS WILL DEVOTE MAJOR PORTION TO WHEAT PRODUCTION. SEE TRIPOLI 2235 FOR RELATED KUFRA WATER-WELL DRILLING PLANS.

2. KUFRA WILL BEGIN CRASH PROJECT BY PLANTING SOME 250 HECTARES WINTER GRAIN CROP DURING 1970-71 SEASON ON WHICH PORTION OF SEED REQUIREMENT FOR 1971-72 CROP WOULD BE PRODUCED. AT LEAST TWO MECHANICAL PIVOT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS ARE PLANNED AND ORDERED FOR INSTALLATION AND USE IN 1970-71 SEASON.

3. TO GAIN AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE PRIOR TO 1971-72 PLANTING, KUFRA PROJECT WANTS ONE TECHNICAL EXPERT EXPERIENCED IN WHEAT PRODUCTION ON SANDY, DESERT-TYPE AREA TO ASSIST IN PLANNING, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF DIELD TRIALS AND CULTURAL PRACTICES AND HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO PUT THEM

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IN URGENT CONTACT WITH CIMMYT REPEAT CIMMYT.

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: WHILE KUFRA PLAN TO USE IMPROVED MEXICAN VARIETIES IN MJAU VE, COMMERCIAL WHEAT PROGRAM DESIGNED TO REDUCE LIBYAN RELIANCE ON IMPORTS IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME IS NOT KIND OF PROGRAM RECOMMENDED BY LITZENBERGER, WE BELIEVE DECISION TO BEGIN WHEAT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME SIGNIFICANT AND ONE WHICH SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. ONCE THE KUFRA WHEAT PROJECT GETS GOING, CHANCES OF SPREADING EXPERIENCE TO COASTAL BELT AND INDIVIDUAL LIBYAN FARMERS WILL BE ENHANCED. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT/AID GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO ENCOURAGING CIMMYT REPS TO COME TO LIBYA ASAP TO SET UP AGREEMENT. OTHER ALTERNATIVES WHICH AID/W MIGHT SUGGEST WOULD BE WELCOME, BUT WE SHOULD MOVE VERY QUICKLY.

DECON: FOLLOWING 9/16/71.
PALMER

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